

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16, with the following redlined paragraph:

It will be understood that, in order for the pump/motor 133 to function properly, the total downward force acting on the valve plate 109 must exceed the total upward force, to prevent the valve plate 109 from lifting from its position. The sum of these forces can be referred to as the *net lifting force*. The net ~~value of forces~~ lifting force  $F$  acting on the valve plate 109 of the pump/motor 133 may be approximated as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1, with the following redlined paragraph:

A new formula for approximating the ~~forces~~ net lifting force  $F$  acting to lift the valve plate and cylinder barrel may be expressed as follows: